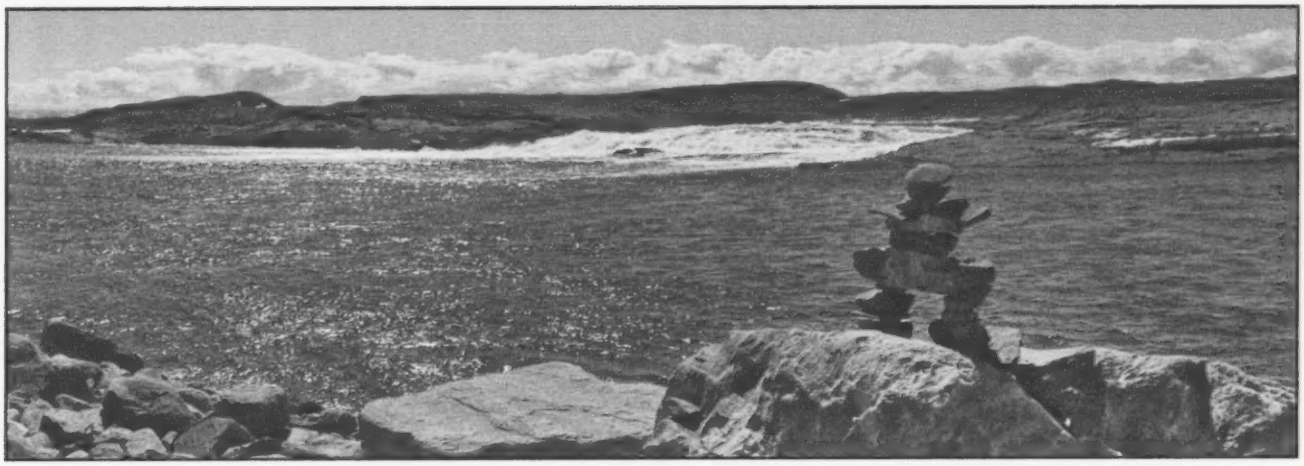
Aajiiqatigiinniq

Government of Nunavut and
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
working together



2011

Aajiiqatigiinniq

WHEREAS the Government of Nunavut (GN) and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) wish to maintain a mutually beneficial working relationship, and jointly address and support common objectives and priorities; and

WHEREAS the GN and NTI wish to implement *Aajiiqatigiinniq* pursuant to the 1999 Clyde River Protocol, which created the foundation for an ongoing working relationship;

NOW, THEREFORE, the GN and NTI agree to conduct their working relations in accordance with the Clyde River Protocol, and as follows:

Our Commitment to Work Together

We recognize that NTI and the GN, in many cases, are working towards the same goals. We are both working to improve the lives of Inuit and to help Nunavut realize its potential as a healthy, prosperous, and secure territory within Canada.

With *Aajiiqatigiinniq*, we commit our organizations to work together, and jointly agree to work on priority areas of mutual interest in order to achieve progress towards our long-term goals.

By working together, we will be more successful in reaching our goals, and will utilize our resources more efficiently when working on our shared priorities. Most importantly, a positive working relationship will produce the best environment to ensure Inuit culture, language, and societal values form the foundation of all that we do.

At this time, Inuit are looking to NTI and the GN to facilitate long-lasting positive change. It is clear that we need to close the gap in the quality of life that now exists between Inuit and other Canadians. In addition, as the world becomes increasingly interested in the Canadian Arctic, we must assert ourselves in all domestic and international activities related to the Canadian Arctic.

Therefore, in *Aajiiqatigiinniq*, we will focus on three thematic areas:

1. ***Encourage self reliance.*** For our Territory to be successful, Inuit must participate fully in its operation. We recognize that in order to increase self-reliance, we must first work towards providing communities the tools necessary to achieve community wellness. For individuals, we must provide individuals with the tools to overcome barriers, or for those who wish to help others in need, greater supports to ensure their efforts can be sustained.

2. ***Raise the standard of living of Inuit.*** The current social indicators for Inuit in Nunavut show many gaps that must urgently be addressed. There are many areas that can be worked on to build a better social and physical structural foundation for Nunavut.

3. ***Work together to develop and renew polices, programs, services and legislation.*** As Nunavut continues to develop made-in-Nunavut legislation, policies, programs, and services, we must not lose sight of our common vision and partnership. We must utilize each of our strengths in formalizing the framework of our Territory.

Mutual Recognition

The GN recognizes that NTI occupies a special place in the affairs of Nunavut as the Inuit organization with the mandate to speak for all of the Inuit of Nunavut with respect to the rights and benefits of Inuit under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (the NLCA). The GN further acknowledges that NTI's mandate, as expressed in its incorporating documents, embraces additional responsibilities designed to protect and promote the interests of the Inuit as an Aboriginal people.

NTI recognizes that the GN is a democratic and responsible public government and must serve the needs and priorities of all citizens of Nunavut, in a fair and equitable manner.
While NTI recognizes the obligation of the public government of the people, it further recognizes that Inuit constitute 85% of the population of Nunavut and their needs and priorities are deserving of particular attention. Both parties recognize the GN's particular obligation to the Inuit under the NLCA.

Principles of a Positive Working Relationship

Aajiiqatigiinniq will only be successfully implemented through diligence and action. It must be a protocol that is more than just words. Our commitment to work together must be respected and implemented by both parties on the political and bureaucratic levels, and only then will both parties rise above the barriers that have strained our working relationship in the past. We must actively use Inuit societal values to guide us.

A productive relationship will produce mutual benefit for each of our organizations, and while we may disagree on certain issues at certain times, we must always remember our strength is in partnership and not division.

Amendment and Term

Aajiiqatigiinniq may be amended from time to time in writing by agreement of the Parties. It shall remain in force until one or both of the Parties determine otherwise.

A party, by providing written notice, may delegate the power to amend the appendices to a designated representative.

Signed on this 20th day of April, 2011, in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

Cathy Towtongie
President
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

Eva Aariak
Premier
Government of Nunavut

2011 Priority Areas

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and the Government of Nunavut (GN) agree to the following priority areas for 2011:

1. Encourage Self-Reliance

Develop a Poverty Reduction Strategy
The GN and NTI will partner to lead a process to create a comprehensive Poverty Reduction Strategy for Nunavut. As partners, the GN and NTI will employ a public engagement model when developing the Strategy.

Implement the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy
NTI and the GN will continue to work together to finalize the strategy, and will begin implementation of the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy in 2011.

Review the Child and Family Services Act
NTI will work with the GN in its review of the Child and Family Services Act, primarily through participation in the Social Services Review Advisory Committee.

Build Inuit Employment Capacity
The GN and NTI will re-establish the bilateral NLCA Article 23 working group with a focus on creating and establishing practical measures to achieve a representative workforce.

2. Raise the Standard of Living

Housing
GN and NTI will work together generally in the area of housing, but will specifically revisit the existing 2004 Nunavut Ten Year Inuit Housing Action Plan, and renew joint efforts to implement the Action Plan or a revised version of the Action Plan.

Marine Infrastructure
Increasing marine infrastructure in our 25 communities would provide significant improvement in the transportation of goods and services, the security of accessing the marine environment, and allow for increased community economic development opportunities. The GN and NTI will partner to advocate for increased marine infrastructure for Nunavut's communities.

Community Wellness
The GN and NTI will continue to support community wellness work in Nunavut and will work together to ensure that all communities have the support necessary to develop and implement community wellness plans.

3. *Work together to develop and renew policies, programs, services and legislation*

Article 32

Inuit have the right as set out in Article 32 to participate in the development of social and cultural policies, and in the design of social and cultural programs and services, including their method of delivery, within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

NTI and the GN will work towards a common understanding on how to meaningfully implement Article 32 obligations.

Government of Nunavut Contracting

NTI and the GN will work together and be equal partners to assist Inuit and Nunavut firms through the implementation of the NNI Policy. NTI and the GN will release the 5 year comprehensive review and continue full consultation of all future interpretive issues regarding the NNI Policy.

Education Act Regulations

NTI and the GN will be partners in the *Education Act* regulations development process. They will ensure that the *Education Act* regulations reflect the Inuit goals and vision for the Nunavut education system, and will work together to develop language of instruction regulations to meet the implementation provisions of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the *Education Act*.

Inuit Language Protection Act (ILPA) and Official Languages Act Regulations (OLA)

NTI and the GN will be equal partners in the development of the OLA and ILPA regulations and the implementation of Inuit language rights under the legislation. The partners will ensure that Taiguusiliuqtiit is fully operational by the end of the reporting period.

Increase inter-organizational understanding

Inter-organizational collaboration is an important way to increase efficiency when working on areas of mutual interest. NTI and GN will facilitate this collaboration by undertaking joint working sessions whose aim is to increase the understanding each organization has of each other's mandate and purpose.

Appendix 1

The Process We Will Follow

Regular Meetings

The Premier of Nunavut and the President of NTI shall meet annually to identify areas of mutual interest, determine actions to address those areas, approve the annual work plans, and review progress on the agreed-upon activities undertaken between meetings. Each organization may invite other elected officials and staff to attend and the agenda will be reached by consensus.

The Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs for the GN and the Chief Executive Officer for NTI will meet at least once per month. Each organization may invite other staff and the agenda will reflect the interests of both.

Annual Work Plans

Each year, both parties will assign officials to work together to implement each of the *Aajiiqatigiinniq* priority areas. Officials from each party will jointly create work plans for each priority area, and then work together during the reporting period.

Annual Reviews

The GN and NTI agree to annually review progress towards *Aajiiqatigiinniq* priority areas, and discuss possible amendments to priority areas.

Information Sharing

The GN and NTI agree to share information. This exchange will be free, as timely as possible, the responsibility of each organization, and will be constrained by legal and budgetary obligations.